



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8 West Hempfield Drive

Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-1260

www.westhempfieldpc.org



Hello to all the newsletter readers of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church!

Lent will begin in the first week of March this year. (Information about our Ash Wednesday service can be found on the next page.)

Every season can be a busy season. We don't need a fancy name like *Lent* to feel busy, but some do choose to do a little extra as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter in those 40 days of Lent.

Whether you will be busy in Lent, or you are already feeling overwhelmed before Lent even begins, Scripture reminds us of the importance of taking time for rest.

"Rest?!" you might be thinking, "I don't have time for rest!"

Believe me when I say, "I understand!" But God wants us to think differently about rest.

Rest is not just one more thing on our already long "to do" list. Rest is a necessity, something we need to be able to tackle the things on our "to do" list.

Rest is so important that God listed it in the Ten Commandments!

Right up there with "Do not murder."

Deuteronomy 5:17 you will find "Do not forget to sit down, breathe, and put your feet up for a minute or two" *Deuteronomy 5:14* (that is my own personal paraphrase of the verse).

In the next verse *Deuteronomy 5:15* God explains why. The people of Israel had been slaves in Egypt, forced to work beyond

exhaustion.

God rescued the Israelites from slavery. That is not to be their life any more.

God has rescued us as well. God alone is to be our Master. And God shows what kind of Master we serve by commanding us to take a break.

In this God also demonstrates that God does not see us as slaves. According to Scripture, we are sons and daughters, part of the family, not slaves or servants or employees.

God does not demand our service, but rather invites us to work alongside Him for His Kingdom.

In this season of Lent, prepare for Easter.

Work hard. Give it your all. Also, find rest. "Take my yoke upon you, ... and you will find rest for your souls."

Matthew 11:29

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



Reminder: Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings Time begins

Sunday, March 9, 2025 @ 2:00 AM

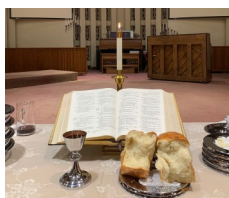
In This Month's Newsletter:

Page 1	Monthly Minute Daylight Savings Time
Page 2	Ash Wednesday Worship Schedule Communion CE Committee Meeting
Page 3	One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Flower Orders
Page 4	Session Summary Building Committee Meeting Lent Devotionals
Page 5	Spaghetti Dinner New Hope Pres Church
Page 6	March Birthday List "Thank you"s
Page 7	March Calendar

March Worship Schedule

3/2 - 10AM Worship w/ Communion (9:00AM Sunday School)	3/16 - 10AM Worship (9:00AM Sunday School)
3/5 - 7PM Ash Wednesday Service	3/23 - 10AM Worship (9:00AM Sunday School)
3/9 - 10AM Worship (9:00AM Sunday School)	3/30 - 10AM Worship (9:00AM Sunday School)

COMMUNION



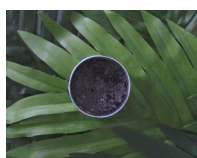
We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 10:00am

We would love for you to join us!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

ASH WEDNESDAY

This year the date for Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2025.



We will have worship on the evening of March 5 for Ash Wednesday. Join us in the sanctuary at 7PM.

Pastor Andrew will lead us in a service of repentance and reflection.

All are welcome.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025
Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025
Good Friday, April 18, 2025
Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

CE COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, March 2 after worship in the Sunday School Room

We will be planning for the Easter Egg Hunt and starting to look forward to VBS.

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025
Service at 7 PM

God always forgives us

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is an annual offering of the PCUSA. Nearly every PCUSA church takes part in this mission effort.

We, like so many others, will be collecting the OGHS offering on Palm Sunday, April 13, and Easter Sunday, April 20.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Giving envelopes and more information will be available in the bulletin inserts on April 6 and 13.

You can also find "One Great Hour" in the drop down menu of the online offering available from the church website until after Easter Sunday.



EASTER FLOWERS ORDERS DUE WITH PAYMENT BY SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Each year we decorate our church sanctuary with colorful spring flowers as part of our Easter celebration.

If you would like to order a flower in honor of or in memory of someone special, complete the form provided below or call the church office.

Paper form, along with payment, can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the office.

We will decorate the sanctuary with the flowers for Easter. After Easter service, please take your flowers home with you.

Flower choices are Lily, Tulip or Hyacinth.

All flowers are \$10 each. Thank you!

Your Name:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Flower	How many?	Cost:
Tulips	_____	\$ 10
Hyacinth	_____	\$ 10
Lilies	_____	\$ 10
Total	_____	\$ _____

Please print legibly. Thank you!

FEBRUARY SESSION SUMMARY

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025

We gathered to cover our church, congregation, and community with prayer and review all that has been going on with the church and the world.

- Approved minutes from January Session meeting
- Set dates for CE Easter Egg Hunt, Holy Thursday Service, Good Friday Service, VBS, and VBS Sunday
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Received updates on the search for a church musician
- Updated quorum for the current board and discussed committee assignments
- Designated Spaghetti Dinner proceeds to Missions/Deacons
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming rentals and events
- Closed with prayer

Next scheduled Session meeting will be March 30, 2025 after worship.

BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Anyone interested in helping out with the Building Committee:

We are planning on gathering after worship on Sunday, March 23 to discuss and take note of possible jobs that can be done over the next year.

See Pastor Andrew for more info.

LENT DEVOTIONALS

The Season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

If you want to take on a devotional practice (such as reading Scripture) this season of Lent, there are many options available for free online. Pastor Andrew recommends a few:

- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has a new online daily devotional every Lent, written by members of the PTS community. www.pts.edu/devotional_1
- Journey to the Cross, the devotional series for Lent, returns to the devotional website and app d365.org
- Presbyterian Hunger Program provides a Lent calendar each year <https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/2025%20Lent%20Calendar.pdf>
- Author Kate Bowler (katebowler.com) offers a “28 Days of Loving More” calendar on her website (seemingly for the 28 days of February, but would still be fun things for Lent reflection) as well as a [Lent Daily Guide](#)



Also, magazine style daily devotionals are always available at the church at no cost to you. The church provides two options. *Our Daily Bread* and *These Days* (now available in large print).

And don't forget the Lending Library bookshelf in the lobby with even more options for you to discover.



FELLOWSHIP

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, March 15, 2025
4:00pm - 6:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall



Cost is \$12 \$6 for children age 8 and under

No advanced tickets. Pay at the door.

The meal includes: spaghetti, meatballs,
salad bar, bread, drink and dessert.

Carry-out will be available.

Everyone is welcome to help. We will be
prepping food and setting up tables Friday and
Saturday throughout the day.

Lots of helping hands have made this a huge
success in the past. Can you help this year?
Contact the church office, sign up in the lobby, or
**attend our planning meeting after church on
Sunday, March 2.**

**WEST HEMPFIELD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Spaghetti Dinner



SAT. MARCH 15, 2025 4-6:30PM

THE MEAL INCLUDES:
SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS, A SALAD BAR,
BREAD, DRINK, AND DESSERT

COST IS \$12 PER PERSON
\$6 FOR CHILDREN (AGE 8 AND UNDER)

SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORS AND HONORING LENT WITH NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 4
from 5:00 - 7:00pm

\$8.00/person
children 6 and under free

includes pancakes, sausage links, strawberries,
donut, and a beverage



New Hope Presbyterian Church
12727 Lincoln Way
North Huntingdon, PA 15642

MID WEEK LENT SERVICES

Wednesdays throughout Lent
March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16

11:30am - 12:30pm with lunch
following

Lunch will be provided by New
Hope PC for a freewill offering

All services will be held at New
Hope Presbyterian Church.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 3	Jake Gilmartin
March 5	Paul Jackson
March 9	Debbie Miller
March 11	Janet Vandermer
March 14	Matt Porterfield
March 19	Cameron Mackenzie
March 21	Mary Porterfield
March 24	Barbara Davis
March 25	Nancy Stepinsky
	Jeff Siegel
March 27	Joyce Edmonds
March 28	Wylie Irwin
	Pat Smith
March 29	Karissa Hrico

*If you have a March birthday,
and we've missed you –
PLEASE, let the office know!*



Thank you to Pam Siegel for sharing her photography and helping us make cards with a Bible verse and information about the church that can be shared with visitors.

Thank you to everyone who has provided flowers for the Lord's Table during Sunday morning worship.

Thank you Virgie Smith for all of the holiday decorations on the glass table in the center of the lobby month after month.

Movie Night was a huge success. The movie was *The Wild Robot*, and we had 20 adults and 17 kids, totaling 37. A big thank you to our movie night chefs Larry and Jeff who grilled hotdogs and served fresh popcorn (which was a huge hit!). The kids enjoyed all the extra snacks. Thanks to all the elders for providing all the snacks and drinks and hot dog buns. Also, they all went home with a special treat, animal mask they could color, and animal sticker.

— The CE Committee —

Thank you to the Deacons for the refreshments after church on March 2.



March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9am – 1pm						1 <i>FH—Rental</i>
2 9am Sunday School 10am Worship CE and Fellowship Meetings after church	3 Dartball	4 <i>FH—Rental</i>	5 Ash Wednesday Service at 7PM Senior Cards 11am	6	7 <i>FH—Rental</i>	8 <i>FH—Rental (maybe)</i>
9 9am Sunday School 10am Worship <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	10 <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	11 Deacons Meeting <i>FH—Rental (maybe)</i>	12 Senior Cards 11am	13	14 Spaghetti Dinner Setup	15  4:00 - 6:30PM
16 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	17 Dartball 	18 Stewardship Meeting	19 Senior Cards 11am	20	21 <i>FH—Rental</i>	22
23 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Building Com Mtg	24 Dartball <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	25	26 Senior Cards 11am	27	28 <i>FH—Rental</i>	
30 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Session Mtg	31					